

serve four counties in the Central Valley and serves over 1,000 children each year through various mentorship programs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central California's 50th anniversary. I commend the service of all past and present members of this organization, who have worked collectively to motivate, promote, support, and educate children and young adults in Central California.

**SUPPORT FOR H.R. 367, THE PAY
OUR COAST GUARD PARITY ACT
OF 2019**

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the unfortunate position the brave members of our Coast Guard were put in due to the recent shutdown. Even while they operated without pay, these courageous men and women continued to serve our country and I would like to highlight some of their stories.

On January 12th, a Coast Guard aircrew responded to two surfers in distress off the Oregon Coast who had been pushed by the surf into a cliffside cove. Once on scene, the crew was able to hoist the surfers out of the water and get them to safety. On Christmas Eve of last year, the Coast Guard interdicted a migrant boat off the coast of the Dominican Republic. Onboard, the crews found 100 kilograms of cocaine heading for the United States. On January 6th, the Coast Guard Cutter *Vigilant* assisted the Haitian government in stopping a small boat dangerously overloaded with 70 Haitian migrants. The Coast Guard worked jointly with Haiti to stop the illegal immigration and maintain the safety of life at sea, something they regularly work with international partners to accomplish.

These are just a few examples of the great work our Coast Guard does every day to protect the people in and around our waterways as well as in our country. Yet unlike the other branches in our armed forces who selflessly serve this country, our Coast Guard men and women were not getting compensated for their work during the shutdown. In 2013, Congress passed the Pay Our Military Act before a shutdown began to make sure members in the armed forces were able to collect their paychecks. I emphasize that this was done before the 2013 shutdown because we just went a little over a month in one and even with introduced legislation to make sure our Coast Guard got paid, we didn't act on it.

There were 41,000 Active Duty Coast Guard members, 6,200 reservists, and 8,500 civilian personnel affected by the shutdown. It is estimated that 31 percent of Active Duty members do not have the savings needed to cover one month's worth of expenses. Moreover, some 13 percent do not have any emergency savings at all. This is not to mention the other benefits the Service members were missing out on like child care programs, death benefits, housing allowances, and required travel costs. Meanwhile, the negative impact on recruiting and retention of members due to the instability will likely have lasting effects long after the shutdown.

My state is home to U.S. Coast Guard Base Kodiak, the largest Coast Guard base in the nation. From there, they coordinate a multitude of operations in the waters around Alaska, including north in the Arctic. They patrol our waters to ensure the proper adherence of fishing laws and regulations, coordinate search and rescue efforts, help establish and maintain aids to navigation, and conduct other missions to help save lives and strengthen national security. As the United States' only surface presence in the Arctic, their mission to ensure safe maritime activity and safeguard national security has gained importance due to the growing presence of Russia and China in the region. This mission is sure to only become even more significant as these foreign powers continue to expand their influence.

Madam Speaker, I could go on about the many great things our Coast Guard does for both the state of Alaska and the United States as a whole, but I believe it is well understood in this chamber and across the country. With the threat of another shutdown in the near future, I fear that the members of our Coast Guard will be put in the same position again. That is why I urge we move to immediately bring up and pass H.R. 367, the Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2019, to make sure they are compensated moving forward. Meanwhile, I call on all members in Congress to come to the table and work with the Administration so that we can make a long-term agreement that is beneficial for all federal employees and prevent another shutdown.

**THE FLOOD INSURANCE FOR
FARMERS ACT OF 2019**

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2019," with my colleague Congressman DOUG LAMALFA (R-CA). This bipartisan bill builds upon the "Flood and Agriculture Risk Management (FARM) Cost Reduction Act of 2017" and legislation I sponsored in the 114th Congress.

The "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act of 2019" would provide access to discounted rates under the National Flood Insurance Program to families who have farmed the Sacramento Valley floodplain for generations. This will help keep agricultural land in production, which is the best way to push back against irresponsible subdivisions in the floodplain that place lives at risk and force farms onto the auction block.

Under current law, areas designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as "Special Flood Hazard Areas" require that all new, expanded, or repaired structures be raised above potential flood level. In much of the Sacramento Valley, this would require raising barns and silos upwards of 10 feet, which is cost prohibitive for many farmers or simply inconsistent with continued agricultural land use.

Currently, FEMA assumes there is zero protection if a levee does not meet the federally mandated 100-year level of flood protection and charges full-cost rates under the National Flood Insurance Program. This effectively pre-

cludes Sacramento Valley farmers from making capital improvements on their operations or securing the necessary financing for such capital improvements. Our bipartisan bill would lift this de facto federal prohibition on new construction and repairs of agricultural structures in high flood-risk areas designated by FEMA.

Specifically, the "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act" would direct FEMA to develop a new flood mapping zone for basins in the Sacramento Valley and elsewhere nationwide protected by levees that do not currently meet the federally mandated 100-year level of flood protection. Rates charged under the National Flood Insurance Program in this new flood zone would be based on actuarial risk. This means that if levees provide a 50-year level of flood protection, FEMA would charge rates based on that discounted risk level. This ensures that farming families can get more affordable flood insurance that reflects the levees they pay to upkeep.

The "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act" is endorsed by the California Rice Commission, USA Rice Federation, American Farm Bureau Federation, California Farm Bureau Federation, Sacramento County Farm Bureau, Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, Yolo County Farm Bureau, California Cattlemen's Association, Dairy Institute of California, and the Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency.

I thank Congressman LAMALFA for his support as the bill's original cosponsor and look forward to continuing to work together on this critical issue for Sacramento Valley farmers. I also want to thank all the California-based and national organizations that have endorsed the bill, to date.

Madam Speaker, I hope that Congress will include the "Flood Insurance for Farmers Act" in any reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program. I urge all Members to join me and Congressman LAMALFA in cosponsoring this important legislation for American farmers.

**IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN R.
MASLY AND HIS 50 YEARS OF
SERVICE IN THE ARMY RE-
SERVES**

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. John Masly and his long, distinguished career spanning just over 50 years as both a civilian and as an officer in the Army Reserves. In addition to this statement of his service, he will be sent a United States flag that has been flown over our great Capitol.

On January 2 of this year, Mr. Masly formally retired from the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development, and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. He had begun his career in 1968 in the Nuclear and Fuze Division. Over the years, he was awarded several patents and published several technical reports in support of the division mission. Mr. Masly also served as Lieutenant Colonel for the Corps of Engineers in the Army Reserve. In 1984, he took a position at the Depot Systems Command Facility in Mainz, Germany. In 1993, he returned to the

ARDEC Fuze Division where supported the development and production of multiple fuze programs. Notably, he made essential contributions to warfighter battle command training exercises.

I ask that we take a moment to recognize Mr. John Masly for his exceptional life of service and his significant contributions to our nation. We should ever be grateful for men and women like him and hope that his contributions and dedication inspire others to do the same.

COMMEMORATING ILLINOIS' 18TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, as we recognize National Catholic Schools Week of 2019, I would like to recognize all the Catholic schools and parishes in the 18th Congressional District of Illinois and across the nation that will be participating in this year's activities. This week, over six thousand Catholic schools will host more than two million students to celebrate this year's theme: "Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed."

As a graduate of St. Anne Grade School in East Moline, Illinois and Spalding Catholic High School in Peoria, Illinois, it is my privilege to celebrate with Catholic schools across my District. The education and religious values that these institutions instill serve as a strong foundation for a devoted relationship with God and inform our daily lives with lessons of faith.

This week we recognize the value Catholic education provides to young people and its contributions to Church, communities, and the nation. I would like to formally recognize the Catholic Schools in Illinois' 18th Congressional District celebrating this week:

St. Edward Catholic—Chillicothe; Our Saviour—Jacksonville; Blessed Sacrament—Quincy; Holy Cross Catholic—Mendota; St. Patrick Catholic—Springfield; Carroll Catholic—Lincoln; St. Patrick Catholic—Washington; St. Mary's—Bloomington; Holy Family Parish—Peoria; St. Philomena—Peoria; Corpus Christi—Bloomington; Epiphany Catholic—Normal; Routt Catholic High—Jacksonville; Quincy Notre Dame High—Quincy; Christ the King—Springfield; St. Vincent de Paul Catholic—Peoria; Peoria Notre Dame High—Peoria; St. Mary's Grade School—Metamora; St. Mary's Catholic—Kickapoo; Central Catholic High—Bloomington; Little Flower Catholic—Springfield; Blessed Sacrament Catholic—Morton; St. Thomas the Apostle—Peoria Heights; St. Agnes—Springfield; St. Paul Catholic—Macomb; Sts. Peter & Paul—Nauvoo; St. Jude Catholic—Peoria; St. Peter—Quincy; St. Joseph Catholic—Pekin; St. Francis Solanus—Quincy; St. Aloysius—Springfield; St. Dominic—Quincy; St. Mary—Mt. Sterling; St. Mark Catholic—Peoria.

While we reflect this week on the impact that our schools have had on our spiritual growth, let us also recognize the contributions that the National Catholic Educational Association continually provides for our communities. Once again, I am pleased to commemorate the 2019 National Catholic Schools

Week and I look forward to many more years of continued success and celebration.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT ERICKA E.
KELLY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize Command Chief Master Sergeant Ericka E. Kelly, upon her retirement after 32 years of distinguished military service to our great Nation in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

Chief Kelly's career culminated with her final assignment as both the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of the Air Force Reserve, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Command Chief of the Air Force Reserve Command, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. Chief Kelly represents the highest enlisted executive level of leadership in Air Force Reserve Command and advises the commander on all issues regarding the readiness, training, welfare, morale, proper utilization and progress of more than 55,000 enlisted Citizen Airmen. She also provides direction to the Reserve force and represents their interests at all levels of government to other military branches and in joint strategic and operational war-fighting environments.

Chief Master Sergeant Kelly came from exceptionally humble beginnings in Guatemala and overcame extreme adversity to achieve her American dream. Immigrating to the United States at the age of 12, she had to work full-time to help support her family before finishing high school at night to earn her diploma. Knowing from a young age she wanted to serve in our nation's military, her dogged determination is the epitome of personal resilience.

Chief Kelly's career began in the medical field as a medical services specialist. Recognizing her talents, the Air Force challenged her through increased responsibilities and she continued to grow and excel as an aeromedical evacuation crew member with over 1,400 flight hours on various airframes. Chief Kelly has deployed numerous times in support of contingency operations around the world including Restore Hope and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to her military service, Chief Kelly has more than 20 years of government, management and law enforcement experience. She has served as a field agent and criminal investigator for the Department of Justice in numerous agencies including the Office of Professional Responsibility. She is also a John Maxwell certified speaker, coach and trainer.

Throughout her tenure, Chief Kelly has been instrumental in advocating for Reservists across the globe and strengthening the total force team. She has ensured Air Force Reserve interests and total force solutions were highlighted and incorporated into decisions made at the highest levels of the Air Force guaranteeing Air Force Reserve Airmen were ready to answer our nation's call.

Due to Chief Master Sergeant Ericka Kelly's visionary leadership, foresight and ceaseless

efforts, the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the Nation will long reap the benefits of her many years of service. It is experienced, dedicated, professional Citizen Airmen like Chief Master Sergeant Kelly who make the Department of Defense and the Air Force Reserve the outstanding institutions that they are today.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Chief Master Sergeant Ericka E. Kelly for her many years of dedicated service. There is no question the Air Force, Department of Defense, and the United States benefited greatly from Chief Kelly's visionary leadership, planning and foresight, and we wish her the very best.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF JEREMY
DESSELLIER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP
AND HEROISM

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Chief Jeremy Dessellier of the Hubbell Fire Department for his leadership and heroism following the 2018 Father's Day flooding in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Through his actions, Chief Dessellier has shown himself to be selfless, courageous, and an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

During the 2018 Father's Day weekend, multiple rounds of heavy rain fell across much of the Upper Peninsula. Almost 7 inches of rain came down on the Keweenaw Peninsula overnight, creating flash floods that washed out roads, destroyed homes, and caused massive damage to the area. A state of disaster was declared as the community came together to rescue those in danger and begin recovery efforts. Local first responders joined with state officials, the Red Cross, and hundreds of volunteers to help the region rebuild.

In the days and weeks following the flooding, the leadership of Chief Dessellier was critical to the success of these efforts. He took calls and meetings with residents, organized supplies, led volunteers, and went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the health and well-being of those in his fire precinct and beyond. Under his leadership, volunteers were able to ensure the safety of community members and move significant amounts of earth and water from local homes and streets. The heroic actions of Chief Dessellier and his volunteers serve as an inspiration for those in Michigan's First District. His devotion to public duty has touched the lives of countless Michiganders, and the impact of his heroism cannot be overstated.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Chief Jeremy Dessellier for his exceptional leadership and heroism. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such a selfless and courageous individual. On behalf of my constituents, I wish Chief Dessellier all the best in his future endeavors.